

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff _____
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

DEFENDANTS

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 4 Diversity
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutional of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

Brief description of cause:

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

MARIA CASTELLON, individually and
on behalf of those similarly
situated,
49 Ridgedale Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07960

Plaintiff,

V.

MORRIS FARMERS MARKET, LLC
30 Lafayette Avenue
Morritown, NJ 07960

Defendant

JURY DEMANDED

Civil Action No. _____

INDIVIDUAL, COLLECTIVE, AND CLASS ACTION CIVIL COMPLAINT

Named Plaintiff Maria Castellon (hereinafter referred to as “Named Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all those similarly situated, by and through undersigned counsel, hereby complains as follows against Defendant Morris Farmers Market, LLC (hereinafter referred to as “Defendant”).

INTRODUCTION

1. Named Plaintiff has initiated the instant action to redress Defendant’s violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”) and the New Jersey Wage Payment Law (hereinafter said New Jersey laws are collectively referred to as the “New Jersey Wage Laws”).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the claims herein arise under laws of the United States, the FLSA. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over related state law claims because they arise out of the same circumstances and are based upon a common nucleus of operative fact.

3. Venue is properly laid in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2), because Defendant resides in and or conducts business in this judicial district and because a substantial part of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district.

PARTIES

4. Named Plaintiff, Maria Castellon, is an adult individual residing at 49 Ridgedale Avenue, Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey.

5. Defendant, Morris Farmers Market, LLC, is a New Jersey limited liability company which has a principal place of business at 30 Lafayette Avenue, Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey.

6. At all times relevant herein, Defendant acted by and through its agents, servants, and employees, each of whom acted at all time relevant herein in the course and scope of their employment with and for Defendant.

FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

7. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

8. In addition to bringing this action individually, Named Plaintiff brings this action for violations of the FLSA as a collective action pursuant to Section 16(b) of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), on behalf of all employees and other similar non-exempt employees presently and formerly employed by Defendant at any point in the three years preceding the date the instant action was initiated (the members of this putative class are referred to as “Class Plaintiffs”).

9. Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs work and/or worked for Defendant within the last three years.

10. Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs are similarly situated, have similar job duties, have similar pay provisions, and are all subject to Defendant’s unlawful policies and practices as discussed *infra*.

11. There are numerous similarly situated current and former employees of Defendant who Defendant failed to pay minimum wage and who would benefit from the issuance of a Court Supervised Notice of the instant lawsuit and the opportunity to join the present lawsuit.

12. There are numerous similarly situated current and former employees of Defendant who Defendant failed to pay overtime and who would benefit from the issuance of a Court Supervised Notice of the instant lawsuit and the opportunity to join the present lawsuit.

13. Similarly situated employees are known to Defendant, are readily identifiable by Defendant, and can be located through Defendant's records.

14. Therefore, Named Plaintiff should be permitted to bring this action as a collective action for and on behalf of herself and those employees similarly situated, pursuant to the "opt-in" provisions of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

15. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

16. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Named Plaintiff brings her claims for relief to redress Defendant's violations of New Jersey Wages Laws on behalf of herself and those similarly situated.

17. Specifically, Named Plaintiff seeks to bring this action on behalf of all employees, and other similar non-exempt positions presently and formerly employed by Defendant in New Jersey subject to Defendant's unlawful pay practices and who worked for Defendant at any point the three years preceding the date the instant action was initiated (the members of this putative class are also referred to as "Class Plaintiffs").

18. Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs are similarly situated, have similar job duties, have similar pay provisions, and are all subject to Defendant's unlawful policies and practices as described herein.

19. The class is so numerous that the joinder of all class members is impracticable. Named Plaintiff does not know the exact size of the class, as such information is in the exclusive control of Defendant.

20. Named Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of Class Plaintiffs because Named Plaintiff, like all Class Plaintiffs, was employed by Defendant within the last three years in New Jersey (a) whom and whom Defendant required to work more than 40 hours per workweek and then failed to pay proper overtime wages (b) Defendant failed to pay minimum wage as required by New Jersey Wage Laws.

21. Similarly situated employees are known to Defendant, are readily identifiable by Defendant, and can be located through Defendant's records.

22. Therefore, Named Plaintiff should be permitted to bring this action as a class action for and on behalf of herself and those employees similarly situated.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

23. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

24. In or about April 2017, Defendant hired Named Plaintiff as a floor associate.

25. Named Plaintiff's job duties included organizing produce and conducting inventory.

26. Defendant paid Named Plaintiff \$500.00 per week.

27. Named Plaintiff regularly worked twelve (12) hour days, six (6) days per week.

28. Upon information and belief, Defendant required all employees to work similar shifts for a similar rate of pay.

29. However, due to Defendant's policies and practices, Defendant paid Named Plaintiff \$500.00 per week regardless of the number of hours Named Plaintiff worked in a week, thereby failing to pay Named Plaintiff at the minimum wage rate and/or for hours spent working in excess of forty (40) hours per week.

30. Class Plaintiffs regularly worked/work full workweeks, which consisted/consist of working in excess of forty (40) hours per week.

31. Upon information and belief, Class Plaintiffs also worked/work for a set wage per week regardless of how many hours Class Plaintiffs worked per week.

32. However, due to Defendant's policies and practices, as detailed herein, Defendant failed/fails to pay Class Plaintiffs minimum wage or for hours spent working in excess of forty (40) hours per week.

Overtime Violations
(Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs v. Defendant)

33. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

34. Named Plaintiff regularly worked at least forty (40) hours each workweek.

35. Defendant required Named Plaintiff to work in excess of forty (40) hours each workweek.

36. Defendant paid Named Plaintiff \$500.00 per week regardless of the number of hours Named Plaintiff worked.

37. Accordingly, Defendant evaded paying Named Plaintiff for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per work week.

38. Defendant required Class Plaintiffs to work in excess of forty (40) hours each workweek.

39. Defendant paid Class Plaintiffs a set amount per week regardless of the number of hours Named Plaintiff worked.

40. Accordingly, Defendant evaded paying Named Plaintiff for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek.

41. The aforementioned conduct has caused damages to Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs.

Minimum Wage Violations
(Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs v. Defendant)

42. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

43. Defendant required Named Plaintiff to work as a cashier at \$500.00 per week.

44. Defendant required Named Plaintiff to work seventy-two (72) hours per week.

45. Defendant paid Named Plaintiff \$500.00 per week regardless of the number of hours Named Plaintiff worked.

46. Upon information and belief, Defendant required Class Plaintiffs to work the same schedule as Name Plaintiff and for a similar flat rate of pay.

47. In 2017, New Jersey Minimum Wage was \$8.33 per hour.

48. In 2017, Federal Minimum Wage was \$7.25 per hour.

49. Defendant paid Named Plaintiff \$6.94 per hour.

50. Accordingly, Defendant paid Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs below minimum wage.

51. The aforementioned violations have caused damages to Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs.

COUNT I
Violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act
(Failure to Pay Overtime Compensation)

52. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

53. At all times relevant herein, Defendant has and continues to be an employer within the meaning of the FLSA. *See* 29 U.S.C. § 203(d).

54. At all times relevant herein, Defendant was/is responsible for paying wages to Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs.

55. At all times relevant herein, Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs were/are employed with Defendant as “employees” within the meaning of the FLSA.

56. Under the FLSA, an employer must pay a non-exempt employee at least one and a half times his/her base rate for each hour worked in excess of forty hours per workweek.

57. At all relevant times herein, Name Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs were/are not “exempt” employees for purposes of the overtime provisions of the FLSA.

58. Defendant failed/fails to pay for hours worked by Named Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs in excess of 40 per workweek.

59. Defendant’s conduct was and is willful and not based upon any reasonable interpretation of the law.

60. As a result of Defendant’s unlawful conduct, Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs have suffered damages as set forth herein.

COUNT II
Violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act
(Failure to Pay Minimum Wage)

61. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

62. At all times relevant herein, Defendant was/is an employer within the meaning of the FLSA.

63. At all times relevant herein, Defendant was/is responsible for paying wages to Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs.

64. At all times relevant herein, Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs were/are employed with Defendant as “employees” within the meaning of the FLSA.

65. Under the FLSA, an employer must pay an employee a minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.

66. At all times relevant herein, Defendant failed/fails to pay Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs minimum wage.

67. Defendant’s conduct in failing to pay Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs minimum wage was/is willful and not based upon any reasonable interpretation of the law.

68. As a result of Defendant’s unlawful conduct, Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs have suffered damages as set forth herein.

COUNT III
Violation of New Jersey Wage Laws
(Failure to Pay Overtime Compensation)

69. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full

70. At all times relevant herein, Defendant has and continues to be an employer within the meaning of the New Jersey Wage Laws. *See* N.J.S.A. 34:11-56a32.

71. At all times relevant herein, Defendant was/is responsible for paying wages to Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs.

72. At all times relevant herein, Named Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs were/are employed with Defendant as employees within the meaning of the New Jersey Wage Laws.

73. Under the New Jersey Wages Laws, an employer must pay a non-exempt employee at least one and one half times her base rate for each hour worked in excess of forty hours per workweek.

74. At all relevant times herein, Name Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs were/are not “exempt” employees for purposes of the overtime provisions of the New Jersey Wage Laws.

75. Defendant’s violations of the New Jersey Wage Laws include failing to pay Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs for hours worked in excess of 40 per workweek.

76. Defendant’s conduct in failing to pay Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs properly was and is willful and was not based upon any reasonable interpretation of the law.

77. As a result of Defendant’s unlawful conduct, Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs have suffered damages as set forth herein.

COUNT IV
Violation of New Jersey Laws Against Discrimination
(Failure to Pay Minimum Wage)

78. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth in full

79. At all times relevant herein, Defendant was/is an employer within the meaning of the New Jersey Wage Laws.

80. At all times relevant herein, Defendant was/is responsible for paying wages to Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs.

81. At all times relevant herein, Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs were/are employed with Defendant as employees within the meaning of the New Jersey Wage Laws.

82. Under the New Jersey Wages Laws, an employer must pay an employee a minimum wage of \$8.44 per hour in 2017 and \$8.60 per hour in 2018.

83. At all times relevant herein, Defendant failed/fail to pay Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs minimum wage.

84. Defendant's conduct in failing to pay Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiff minimum wage was/is willful and not based upon any reasonable interpretation of the law.

85. As a result of Defendant's unlawful conduct, Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs have suffered damages as set forth herein.

VII. RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor and against Defendant and that this Court enter an Order providing that:

A. Defendant is prohibited from continuing to maintain its illegal policy, practice or custom in violation of federal and state wages and hours laws and state discrimination laws;

B. Defendant is to compensate, reimburse, and make Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs whole for any and all pay and benefits they would have received had it not been for Defendants illegal actions, including but not limited to past lost earning. Named Plaintiff and Class Plaintiffs should be accorded those benefits illegally withheld;

C. Named Plaintiffs and Class Plaintiffs are to be awarded liquidated damages as applicable under the Fair Labor Standards Act and New Jersey Wage Laws in an amount equal to the actual damages in this case;

D. Plaintiff is to be awarded the costs and expenses of this action and reasonable attorneys' fees as provided by applicable federal and state law.

E. Any other further relief this Court deems just proper and equitable.

Date: July 30, 2018

LAW OFFICES OF ERIC A. SHORE, P.C.

BY: /s/ Graham F. Baird

GRAHAM F. BAIRD, ESQUIRE (Pa. Id. No. 92692)

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